



## Shelby County Office of Preparedness HLS / EMA

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### Shelby County Offers Free Preparedness Training



**Photo Caption:** Shelby County Office of Preparedness CERT graduates on the fire field during “fire suppression” training.

Left to right kneeling: Michael Manning, Iris Castillo-Cohen, Arien Williams, and Eugene Jones, CERT Coordinator

Left to right standing: Donald Jacobsen, Sherman Kilimanjaro, Sandy Cohen, John Ferretti, Fayre Crossley, Vicki Corbin, Sheila Goodman, and Jack Corbin

On May 4 and 11, a group of determined civic-minded citizens gathered for Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training at the Shelby County Complex to learn what to do before, during, and after a disaster.

The students, led by Eugene Jones, Office of Preparedness CERT Coordinator, were reminded that unexpected events such as earthquakes, inclement weather, power outages, terrorism, major fires, and hazardous materials accidents can occur in our region with little to no warning.



**Photo Caption:** Eugene Jones, CERT Coordinator, far right, critiques the hands on portion of Medical Triage and First Aid as students show off their creative bandaging and splinting techniques

This life-saving information, in the form of lectures, videos and hands-on exercises, included extinguishing a small fire during the Fire Suppression module, explained how to give a death notification in Disaster Psychology, how to splint a bone and stop bleeding during Medical Triage and First Aid, how to rescue victims during Light Search and Rescue, tips on spotting potential terrorism and how to stay safe, and how to create a “go kit” for home, work and auto during the Disaster Preparation module.

On the second Saturday of training, the students were tested on their new knowledge and skills during a final scenario. A mock earthquake occurring in downtown Memphis required the students to search the building, put out a fire, rescue three victims, and set up a medical treatment area near the scene. The students performed well!

The students graduated with a new confidence that they will know what do when an unexpected event occurs here in Shelby County. After CERT training, they will be able to assist their family, neighbors and co-workers until professionals arrive on the scene.

Future scheduled CERT classes are listed below. Pre-registration is required and students must complete both full Saturdays in order to graduate. Classes are held at 1075 Mullins Station Road, Memphis, TN 38134, at the Shelby County Office of Preparedness, from 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

June 1 and 8  
 July 13 and 20  
 August 10 and 17  
 October 5 and 12  
 November 2 and 9

To find out more about the Shelby County CERT Program or to schedule a class, please email Eugene Jones at [Eugene.jones@shelbycountyttn.gov](mailto:Eugene.jones@shelbycountyttn.gov)

**End of Release**